



14 September 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians

The new school year is well underway and we thank you all for making sure every one of our students were ready to return to school. They are doing really well, and we thank them for their really excellent cooperation.

There are a couple of small changes we have to make that came to light as the whole school population completed its first full week. We are working on these and continue to do our best for the safety and health of all in Balla Secondary School.

Books/School Bags

We are aware of the weight of school bags, especially for first years and we have a solution until we can reinstate the lockers.

- If you wish, your child may download an eBook version of each book to their phone/device and use this in class instead of the printed version of the book.
- This means they can leave some of their books at home each day.
- If you choose this option their phones/devices must be fully charged each morning.
- An uncharged phone/device will not be permitted as an excuse not to have a book in class.
- Our book suppliers for the mainstream classes are FolensHIVE, Educate.ie, Edco and GillExplore.
- FolensHIVE, Educate.ie and GillExplore have an app that can be downloaded to student devices.
- eBooks from Edco can be viewed through the browser on a device.

Please follow the instructions below to access eBooks:

1. Inside the front cover of each textbook you will find a website address.
2. Follow the link and create/register an account according to the instructions on each textbook
3. Enter in the unique code given inside the cover. (Sometimes under a scratch card)
4. If you encounter any difficulties with downloading the book please contact anthonygainley@ballasecschool.com
5. Please note that download speeds vary considerably in different areas and patience may be required!

Earphones

As part of the new systems, we ask all students to bring in a pair of earphones with them every day.

- Students should bring **simple** plug-in earphones as opposed to wireless headphones.
- Students will need these for use with their own devices and the schools devices.

On behalf of all the teachers and members of staff, we wish our students a happy, safe, healthy and productive new academic year and thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Yours sincerely

Teresa Walsh

Principal